Martha Crenshaw - Political Psychology and Terrorism

Description:

The session will focus on defining the concept of terrorism, discussing the development of the field of terrorism studies, and summarizing points of theoretical agreement with regard to psychological motivations for terrorism (particularly the centrality of group dynamics to processes of radicalization and recruitment). It will also note areas of weakness in general terrorism research. The discussion will then consider the specific phenomenon of “suicide terrorism.” If there is sufficient time, it can include a critical analysis of the debate over “old” vs. “new” terrorism.

The discussion will focus on what political science calls "qualitative methods" particularly the use of case studies and process tracing. Students can read:

Readings for substantive session on terrorism:
